

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 13708 081837Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3868
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S E C R E T NEW DELHI 13708

EXDIS

LONDON PLEASE PASS TO DR. NYE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 227251

1. V. SHANKAR IS TO BE IN BOMBAY OVER THE WEEKEND AND DURING THAT TIME EXPECTS TO BE CONFERRING WITH DR. SETHNA ON A DEFINITION OF THE TERMS FOR THE PROPOSED INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE OF SCIENTISTS AS WELL AS ON OTHER NUCLEAR MATTERS. HE HAS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW US UNTIL THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

2. HE THINKS IT IS PREMATURE TO PLAN A MEETING WITH NYE, BUT THAT ONE MAY WELL BE DESIRABLE BEFORE THE PLAN IS CRYSTALIZED. HE WOULD NOT WANT THE PURPOSE OF ANY SUCH MEETING TO BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE UNTIL A DEFINITE FINAL PLAN HAS BEEN AGREED TO, AND SEEMED TO PREFER A SITE OUTSIDE OF INDIA UNDER THE COVER OF OTHER LESS SENSITIVE ACTIVITIES.

3. SHANKAR REEMPHASIZED TO ME THAT THE MANDATE OF THE PRO-
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POSED COMMITTEE CANNOT SEEM TO FOCUS ON INDIA'S PROBLEMS ALONE. "THAT WOULD KILL ITS USEFULNESS HERE," HE SAID. ONLY IF THE APPROACH IS "MORE UNIVERSAL" WOULD THE IDEA OF SUCH A COMMITTEE PASS MUSTER POLITICALLY OR ITS FINDINGS CARRY CREDENCE WITH INDIA'S ATOMIC SCIENTISTS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE REITERATED THAT THE GOI, TOO, WISHES TO AVOID SEEMING TO UNDERCUT THE IAEA.

GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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